

From the Minister



A critical mass of Hope members and staff attended The Point last week, our Unitarian Universalist week-long camp for all ages. The pace was both busy and relaxed. We rushed to the next activity but also had time for impromptu conversations.

Our children got to know other UU children from around the country. The adults met regional staff, religious educators, ministers and lay members. We even had the chance for conversations with one of the candidates for UUA president (Yes, *other* elections are coming up too.) We all came together for meals, worship, swimming, singing, dancing, playing games, walking, and spontaneous silliness.

One lasting piece of wisdom I heard this week came from our key note speaker, George Kimmich Beach, a minister and theologian, a renaissance man really. He defined the word **sacred** as **“that which you cannot violate without violating yourself.”** The phrase captures my imagination. It echoes the Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

In both, the first point of reference is one’s self. It repeats what the Transcendentalists, Buddhists, and airline employees say, begin with yourself. Put your oxygen mask on first.

When I consider how I want to be treated; when I notice how it feels to be left out, labeled or mislabeled; when I begin to treat others the way I wish to be treated, I have taken significant steps toward being kind and fair. The Golden Rule isn’t perfect. The refining Platinum Rule, “Do unto others as they would like done unto them” takes the empathy a step further demanding knowledge of what another person wants and needs. This additional hurdle involves sympathy and communication. If you don’t ask what the other person wants then you may be far off the mark of how he or she (or ze) wish to be treated.

Beach’s definition of sacred insists first we must know ourselves and what we value. It does not evoke the need for any supernatural blessing. Instead it is grounded in our reality and self-understanding. Truly, there is nowhere else to begin but with our own perceptions and lived experiences.

For example, I consider family vital. Ignoring or damaging those relationships violates myself. I consider sacred all connections with friends, coworkers and Hope members as well as strangers I come across. With this definition of sacred I have begun a list of what I consider sacred. Education. Beauty. Health. Equality. Fairness. Childhood innocence and safety. Love. The list grows. What is sacred to you? What must you not violate? Let’s compare lists.

Joyfully,



The Rev. Cathey Edwards
cathey@hopeuu.org



Volume 22

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August
2016

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Sunday Mornings

August 2016

Sunday Religious Education
for Children and Youth
10 am - RE Wing

Sunday Adult Religious
Education
10 am - Sanctuary

Sunday Worship
11am - Sanctuary

Sunday, August 7
“What’s The Big Idea?
Open Mind”
Sister Ellie Finlay

Sunday, August 14
“What’s The Big Idea?
Moving Words”
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Sunday, August 21
“What’s The Big Idea?
Helping Hands”
Youth & Children

Sunday, August 28
“What’s The Big Idea?
Loving Heart”
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

August

What’s the Big Idea?



During the month of August we return to the basics of our Unitarian Universalist traditions. Rather than looking at a monthly theme, we take a step out of the heat and into the shade to view the whole landscape of our religion.

If you are new to Tulsa or to Hope, you will get an overview of our church and its values. If you are a long-time member, this month is the opportunity to round out missing information and to go more deeply into our fundamental principles.

The Big Ideas we will explore together this August are Open Mind, Moving Words, Helping Hands, and Loving Heart. These phrases come from the text of a chalice lighting used in Unitarian Universalists churches around the world. They embody the ways we keep and apply our faith.

We will return to monthly themes and your Touchstone Journal in September with **Kindness**.

About Our Monthly Themes

Hope Church is a questioning community. It is a safe place to bring doubt and new ideas.

Our monthly themes express Hope Church’s openness to theological exploration. They are not an endorsement of any particular creed or belief. Instead, they provide a monthly opportunity to examine in common a religious doctrine or idea.

If you are not receiving **Touchstones**, the electronic newsletter on the monthly theme, please let our administrator, Maggie Scott, know at hopeuu@hopeuu.org.



Children and Youth Programs

Susan Spooner

Director

918-932-4524

susan@hopeuu.org

CYP Committee Members:

Paula Haight, Kerri Vandiver, Ann Lee, Susan Farma Hai, Laura Reiman

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Sundays 10:00 am—12:00 pm

Religious education is focused on the theme of the month as well as curriculum designed to help Hope's young ones discover answers to life's big questions. The curriculum includes chapel, religious education about Unitarian Universalism and other faiths, art, nature and outdoor experiences. Parents are always welcome to join their children in our religious exploration.

Susan Spooner

What's the big deal about Religious Education?

There is a spiritual practice where in the participants listen or read the same passage. The passage can be as simple as, "Parents are the primary religious educator of a child". Let's ponder that sentence again and let it sink in. Parents are the primary religious educator of a child. One more time. Parents are the primary religious educator of a child. Now sit with it. How does that settle in your bones? How does that feel in your soul? You may find yourself thinking: Then, why am I taking my family to church? What does the religious education program at church provide that I cannot? What are the people in religious education teaching? I don't know anything about religion; how can I possibly do this?

While parents are a child's primary teacher in LIFE, parents are rarely prepared or may not even perceive the importance of the role of religious educator in their children's lives. Many parents seek a religious community to invite this dynamic into their family's life. The church community is a place to help us formulate our own religious and spiritual lives, to comfort us in times of trouble and to raise our children in a loving environment. The church provides supplemental information and direction when our parenting resources don't quite answer life's burning questions. We need someone to guide us through the big questions, to examine our own weaknesses, and generously share our treasure and talent. Religious education provides all this and more. Parents have told me, "I don't want to tell them what to believe" or "We believe...". Some parents are absolutely certain what they want their children to believe, making it difficult to allow the child to walk their own path. This is why we take our children to church and where formal religious education adds a richness to the fabric of our children's religious and spiritual walk.

The teachers, the committee and I are here to stand shoulder to shoulder with you as you raise your family. As we move forward this year, we need to hear your voices. What are you and your children experiencing? How can we help you? This month "It Takes a Village" will focus on your experiences as a family. What do you want our children and youth to experience this year in their religious education? Please join us **on Sunday, August 14, at 9:00 am**, to discuss these important questions.

Susan Spooner



**Interested in more about parenting support and loving a child?
Send a friend request to Hope Unitarian Church: It Takes a Village.**

Music Notes



I attended the annual Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN) Conference, which took place July 20-24, 2016, and was joined by over 200 UU musicians from across the U.S. and Canada. This year it was hosted by the wonderful folks of First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin. The conference music/worship focus theme was “Intentionally Engaged in Radical Collaboration.”

In residence during the conference were three incredible visiting artists. Worship Artist and Consultant Marcia McFee gave two extended plenary sessions on strategies for enlivening and providing transformational worship services in our UU churches. Marcia was the visionary designer of our worship experiences that combined all the musical and visual arts, and she powerfully led and participated in each service during the four days of the conference.

Eminent choral conductor and Tai Chi master Adam Con directed our conference choir, and he incorporated Tai Chi movements along with effective singing techniques as we rehearsed and performed several inspiring choral pieces. Emily Ellsworth, extraordinary conductor of ANIMA, the Young Singers of Chicago, directed the UU National Children’s Choir during worship services and for an inspirational evening concert.

All three artists joined forces for the two Sunday services in the design and execution of an astounding transformational collaborative worship experience. Space here does not permit a full description of all the experiences and resources provided by the conference to empower and inspire UU musicians to serve their respective church communities. I am immensely grateful to the Hope community for your support that enabled me to attend and actively participate in this year’s conference.

As the Hope Singers take up the mantle once again in August, I will have much to share with them and with our worship teams as we continue to spread our joy of music and of singing and support the mission and spirit of Hope Church. We now transition into a new season, during which our beloved and esteemed pianist **Chris Powell** will take temporary leave of us as he spends a semester studying abroad in Vienna, Austria. Chris’ last week with us will be August 14, but we will look forward to welcoming him back soon after the first of the year. In the meantime, I am pleased that we will be welcoming back **Ann Raphael** as pianist while Chris is away. Ann was Hope’s pianist in years past and we will definitely enjoy Ann sharing her incredible pianistic skills once again.

Joseph Rivers, Director of Music

Hope Leaders in Training: Dwight Brown Leadership School (DBLE)

A significant number of Hope board members and staff will be spending five intense days together in Little Rock, Arkansas next week. Before going we have reading assignments and a covenant to sign. If you hunger for a readable history of our Unitarian roots, you too can look at the Minns Lectures we are assigned on the UUA website. We will be joining more than fifty leaders from other Unitarian Universalist churches in our area for training in inspiring and organizing church life. Our Southwest District has been offering this training for decades, refining its curriculum and methodology.

Each day begins in worship to focus our attention on one of these core values of Unitarian Universalism: Hope, Love, Courage, Justice, and Joy. After worship, we will examine these core values through individual learning and group work. We spend evenings exploring different spiritual practices which can enhance and anchor our individual spiritual lives.

Look out. We will come back energized, informed and transformed. I can’t predict how it will change us or Hope, but it will.

Rev. Cathey Edwards

Notes from the Board

The full board meeting minutes will be posted after approval at the next board meeting.

The new board had its first meeting on July 26. Some housekeeping issues were decided for the current year. It was decided a Consent Agenda would be used for all reports with the exception of minutes and the finance reports.

Mike Monroe has resigned from the board. The board approved **Cate Potter** to replace him.

A vote was passed which was presented by the Finance Committee concerning memorial gifts of less than \$500. Half of the gift will go to the Memorial Garden and half to the Hope Foundation.

The Policy on Animals was distributed to each member asking them to place it in their Board Handbook.

Claudia Vandiver and **Marcia Schaefer** did an educational session on the finance reports. It will be very helpful for the board members to understand the details of the reports which they receive each month prior to the board meeting.

Our pianist, **Chris Powell**, is going to Austria for the fall quarter. We will be either replacing him as pianist or Joseph Rivers will do double duty as pianist and Director of Music

Selection of Committee chairs for the 2016-2017 years is being worked on. The new committee chairs, in addition to the chairs which have not been filled, was shared. When all the chairs are filled, a list will be distributed to the board.

The dates of the board retreat was confirmed for Aug 19/20. The board was asked to share any topics they would like to cover at the retreat.

New business asked that next month we discuss education sessions we could have on staying a safe community. Do police do education? Also, the status of membership as to how many new members this past church members and what is the current church member status.

Anita Ward, President, Board of Trustees

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:00 am, Sanctuary

August 7: Generosity Sunday

Our guest speaker will be a representative from the Assistance League of Tulsa, our generosity recipient for August.

August 14: Hope Youth will lead us as we assess and consider our privilege (or lack thereof).



August 21:

We will watch the sermon delivered by **The Rev. Dr. William Sinkford** for the 2016 Service of the Living Tradition during this year's UUA General Assembly

August 28:

The Nature of the Quantum Universe

This is the third of a three-part series that focuses on the mind and the universe, presented by **Raman Singh**. This talk presents what we know about the way the universe exists and how that differs from our daily perception of things. The talk introduces some interesting scientific concepts at the level of a general audience.

Chris Anrig, Adult RE Chair
cmanrig@hotmail.com

Garden and Grounds



About one third down / two thirds to go - summer that is. Last year we had almost 30 inches of rain through June, this year 14.6 - much closer to average. Things look good, but we still need continued TLC for the planted beds and pots. So kudos and mucho gracias to the faithful watering crews. I am always amazed at how things in the woods and along the trails on our rocky hilltop survive heat and wind, and drought this time of year. The surprise lilies that survive on our tough hill have popped open in unexpected places, lending their fragile beauty for a few brief days.

It is summer "daisy" time. Blackeyed susans (rudbeckia), coneflowers (Echinacea) and "daisies" of various sorts thrive on our hill. Asteraceae is a huge family of 1620 genera including, daisies, asters, chrysanthemums, marigolds and zinnias. Paleobotanists suggest that the first members of this (daisy) family may have evolved some 50 million years ago, based on the discovery of well-preserved fossils that date to the Eocene Epoch (56 million to 33.9 million years ago). Daisies are my favorite flowers and it is fun to know they are (possibly) the first flower type to develop. For tens of millions of years plants and trees had no flowers.

Some unknown "varmint" ate two plantings of sunflower seeds in the kids' garden. Had just sprouted a few leaves and were eaten to the ground. The bronze fennel that has done so well by the back patio and hosted black swallowtails, for some reason did not survive in the same location this year. There are fewer butterflies of all sorts around this year and I have seen no monarchs on the hill or in my yard so far. Please let me know if any of you spot them.

I often see some larger hawks in the woods but there is also a smaller one that flew down the drive. Flew along the fence about shoulder high and didn't notice me standing there so close I could see his shiny black eye. Felt like a gift and a lovely reminder of why I spend so much time alone outside.

Janet Williamson
Garden and Grounds Chair

Sunday Flowers

You are invited to bring flowers for the Sanctuary on Sundays. Honor a loved one, celebrate a birthday or just bring flowers because you love to see them in the Sanctuary! You can sign for the months ahead in the folder on the Administrator's desk.



Green Sanctuary Update



If any of you newcomers have wondered about that “ACCREDITED GREEN SANCTUARY” sign at the Sheridan entrance, the December 2011 Hope Board of Trustees approved a proposal to begin candidacy for that UUA designation. The Association provides a well-defined, rigorous set of requirements that our congregation worked on for three years and accomplished. The February 27, 2015 official notice of that award is posted on the back wall of the sanctuary.

FYI, there are just under 25% of the 1,092 UUA churches worldwide that have achieved that distinction.

Improving energy efficiency is an important goal of the GS program and this year’s annual report to UUA will include data evaluating the new HVAC unit at Hope Church. Key to being able to do this was an EnergyStar evaluation program benchmark dataset developed during the Green Sanctuary candidacy application preparation.

Learning about this program was a major benefit from the February 2012 professional assessment of the building’s energy usage. This program also has sections that can be used by home owners and business owners to measure energy usage improvement following building improvements.

The impressive logic in the program is that it provides a credible way to measure what has been accomplished, very difficult to do by simply analyzing utility bill charges because of the huge year-to-year variation in Oklahoma weather conditions. It does that by comparing our worship facility’s energy usage performance to others in a large EnergyStar database who are of similar building/congregation size and activity level in the same geographic area.

A benchmark dataset was developed from Hope utility bills for the years 2010-14. Hope’s average rating was a dismal 24.2 on a scale of 1-100.

Installation of the new HVAC system approved in the September 2014 special congregational meeting chaired by Ken Jones was completed in January 2015, and Hope’s rating for FY 2015-16 has jumped to 41. Taking into account annual utility bills cost for the 5 years 2010-14 and an annual average of \$8,000 for heavy maintenance costs in FY 2013 and 2014, annual estimated cost savings is a very significant \$9,800. We can hardly wait to see a full-year 2016’s rating!

With our appreciation to Hope Church accountant **Rebecca Jones** for her years of support in developing the database that made the above analysis possible,

Green Sanctuary co-chairs **Rich Jackson** and **Janet Williamson**

Kitchen Clean Up

A big thanks to **Shaden Reiman** for the great job he did helping with washing and drying silverware when we had a kitchen clean up day recently.

Hope Outreach

Generosity Offering

Each Sunday, we give away ALL of the undesignated funds from our Offering. The Outreach Committee chooses organizations that support the mission of Hope Unitarian Church.

In July we raised \$1,020.75 for Lindsey House

Here are the totals raised in previous months:

Thank you for your generosity.

Month	Organization	\$ Amount
June	Mental Health Association of Oklahoma	\$899.20
June	Equality Florida	\$648.00
May	Wing It	\$1288.82
April	TMM Tornado Relief	\$670.00
April	Guest at Your Table	\$1948.56
March	DVIS	\$1,337

August Generosity Recipient



The August Generosity recipient is **Assistance League of Tulsa**. The chapter provides flexible, rapid response

strategy to respond to one time or short term community needs. The Assistance League supports Operation School Bell, providing new clothing for elementary school children in need, The Betty Bradstreet Assistance Fund, assisting local school districts by supporting the arts, Life Senior Services and the Mental Health Association of Tulsa.

A representative from the Assistance League of Tulsa will speak at the Adult Forum on Sunday, August 7.

Feed the Homeless Program

Volunteers from Hope prepare and serve a meal for clients at the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** the third Saturday of every month.

Thanks to the following people who helped in July.

- Shopper: **Keith Hamilton**
- Meal prep and cooking: With team leader, **Mary Newman: Susan Farma Hai, Helen Bordelon, Rich Jackson.**
- Serving at the Day Center with team leader **Anita Ward: Tara Saylor (and 6 yr old Evelyn Saylor), Susan Farma Hai, Debby Baker, Jay Stewart and Royce Edward Brown**

The Feed the Homeless team would also like to express their appreciation to **Kim Rauh** who generously donates chicken for the casseroles.

Help Needed

The FTH team is looking for someone who would be interested in volunteering to help with transporting the food and supplies from Hope to the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless, near downtown. Please call **Anita Ward** at 918-664-2129 if you have any questions or interest in doing this.

Next Feed the Homeless date is:

Saturday, August 20

2:30 pm at Hope to help cook and prepare food.

5:00 pm at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless to help serve the meal.

You can sign up for the months ahead. Sign up sheet is in the folder on Administrator's desk.

Cereal Sunday

Sunday, August 14

Please bring cereal for the homeless. This cereal, along with several gallons of milk, is taken to the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** every month when we prepare their meal. The collection basket is in Fellowship Hall.



Hope Events



Breakfast on the Hill—Coming Soon

Breakfast on the Hill has been on summer hiatus and will be back **Sunday, September 4**. Thereafter it will be the first Sunday of each month until June

with the exception of January.

Brown Bag Lunch

1st & 3rd Mondays at 11:30 am in RE Wing

Bring your lunch and join us for lively discussions on current topics.

Larry Vandiver geolarry@sbcglobal.com

Women of the Thread

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 11:30 am in the log cabin

You are invited to join this informal creative group working on our Threads of Hope. We work together to supply lap blankets, shawls, and baby blankets for our church community or you are welcome to bring a personal project. Please join us. Hope to see you there.

Carrie Muzika

proenviomom@cox.net

Deborah Whittaker

debsharmony@yahoo.com

Women of Hope

Thursday, August 4, 6:00 pm

Our August event will be at the home of Barb Witt, 11805 S. Pittsburg Avenue in Tulsa. You may bring either a salad or dessert of your choice, and join the fun at 6:00 pm. If you need directions or have questions, you may call or text Barb at 918/812-3450.

Jane Brumley, W.O.H. Program Chair

murphy3@cox.net

Hope Book Club

Monday, August 15 at 6:30 pm in the Log Cabin

Continuing the discussion on "The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark" by Carl Sagan

Chris Anrig cmanrig@hotmail.com

Movie Night

Tuesday, August 9, 7:00 pm

Our August movie is *Advise and Consent* (1962) directed by **Otto Preminger**. The title derives from the Constitution's Article II, Sec. 2, cl. 2, which provides that the President of the United States "shall nominate, and by and with the advise and consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States". The film follows the consequences of a presidential nomination for Secretary of State of a man with a hidden past who commits perjury in the course of confirmation proceedings. As you watch this movie, even though it is 54 years old, you might see some of same things occurring in the U.S. Senate today.

As always free popcorn, soft drinks, and opportunity for discussion are provided. If you are in need of babysitting services please contact Susan Spooner susan@hopeuu.org at least 48 hours in advance. The movie will start at about 7:15.

Larry Vandiver geolarry@sbcglobal.com

Hope Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, August 17, at 11:30

We'll meet a new restaurant called Nibbles. It is located in the former Ripe Tomato site at The Market on Harvard and 81st. Call or email Lynn Walters 918-863-4508 lfwalters@aol.com if you plan to come .

Hope's Village

**Sunday,
August 14
at 9:00 am
in the Cabin**



Parents, grandparents and anyone else who helps raise children, please join us as we explore the joys and challenges of child-rearing. *Childcare is available beginning at 8:45 am, no reservation required.*

Susan Spooner

susan@hopeuu.org

Outreach News

“Gap Packs” Fundraiser

Individuals are released from **David L. Moss Detention Center** at all hours of day and night and in all types of weather and often with no resources, no transportation, no one to call or places to go. At times people re-offend just to have a safe place to go, or are themselves victimized when they are at their most vulnerable. A Gap Pack is intended to help by providing basic resources to those in need in their first 24 hours out of jail.

A **Gap Pack** is a zip lock bag containing basic essentials such as bottled water, snacks, socks, a thermal blanket, condoms, tampons, a map of downtown Tulsa, a notebook with a poem, pen and resources list.

All Souls Criminal Justice Outreach (CJO) in partner with other organizations conducted a successful Gap Pack pilot program in April, 2016 in which they provided 100 Gap Packs. They now estimate the need for 250 packs a month.

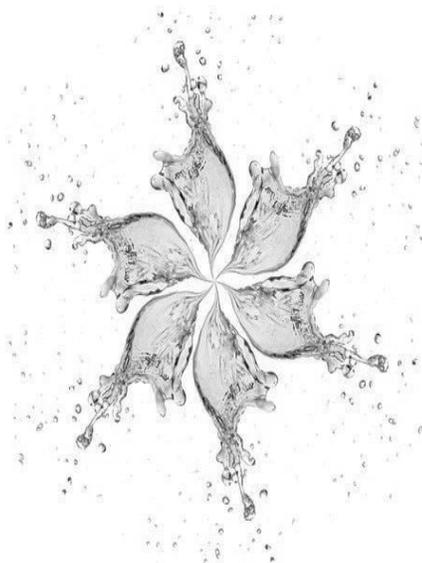
Hope’s Outreach Committee is partnering with All Souls CJO in supplying items. One of the items included in the Gap Packs is a thermal blanket and the Outreach Committee’s goal is to buy 250 Mylar blankets (or more). Please help us reach this goal! Please write checks to Hope Unitarian Church with “Gap Packs” in memo line. Call **Mary Newman** at 918-810-0953 if you have any questions.

Homecoming Sunday

Kick Off New Church Year

September 11, 2016

Hope Unitarian Church



REturn
REnew
REstore
REcharge
REvitalize
REFRESH!

Please welcome
Hope's newest
member

Jay Stewart



Surprise Supper Club Potluck at Hope

Saturday, September 10, 2016 at 6:00 pm

Come join the Surprise Supper Club Potluck and bring your favorite dish (that will be the surprise) we'll provide beverages and serve-ware.

You can sign up for the Supper Club season and choose a month to host/hostess. Oct. 8, 2016, Dec. 10, 2016, Jan.14, 2017, Feb. 11, 2017, April 8, 2017, May 13, 2017 always the second Saturday of the month.

Childcare will be provided with reservations with **Susan Spooner**
susan@hopeuu.org



August Birthdays

Claudia Vandiver	8/2
Elizabeth Obal	8/3
Anne Steiner	8/5
Stan Bear	8/5
Lana Larkin	8/6
Richard Jackson	8/8
Joe Newman	8/13
Charles Mills	8/15
Myra Monroe	8/16
Chris Anrig	8/19
Kael Marsh	8/31

Key People

When no one is at the church, the building is locked and the security system is on. A committee of key people have keys and security clearance to open and close the building for church events. Each takes a one-week turn

August 1—7

Barbara Witt

918-812-3450

August 8—14

Fred Pottorf

918-407-0924

August 15—21

Eric Reiman

918-407-0924

August 22—28

Jim Sleezer

918-760-9711

August 29—September 4

Barbara Witt

918-812-3450

Policy for function organizers

1. First, determine if someone - attending your function can open the building.
2. Find out if church will be open/closed for another event at the same time as yours.
3. If no one is available and you need entry, contact above - volunteer Key Person **a few days in advance of your event.**

**For Hope's August Calendar
see Hope's website
www.hopeuu.org**

Focus Deadline

Submissions for Focus should be sent to hopeuu@hopeuu.org with "Focus" in the subject line and are normally due **9 am the 4th Wednesday in the month. Submissions are subject to editing for length and content.**

The next Focus will be published August 31, 2016 . Next Deadline: 9 am, Wednesday, August 24.



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PERIODICAL POSTAGE
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TO:

Hope's Vision

Seeking Truth, Sharing Love
Within - Among - Beyond

Hope's Mission

Supporting the free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
Teaching the history and traditions of Unitarianism;
Promoting and defending freedom of thought;
Celebrating life's passages;
Serving the larger community with justice and compassion.

Hope's Values

Reason - Integrity - Tolerance

Our Staff

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Susan Spooner, Director of Children and Youth Programs, susan@hopeuu.org
Rebecca Jones, Accountant (off site)

Our Board of Trustees

Anita Ward, President
Ken Jones, President Elect
Claudia Vandiver, VP of Finance
Anne Steiner, VP of Programs
Marcia Schaefer, Treasurer
Janet Nobles, Past President

Trustees: **Elke Johnson, Cate Potter, Larry Sharp, Anita Wood,**



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Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 3:00 pm